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REVIEWS OF RECENT LITERATURE.

ANTHROPOLOGY.

Prehistoric Burial Places in Maine.¹ — Mr. Willoughby's paper is noteworthy for its exposition of modern methods of archæological research. At every step in the progress of the work of exploration of the three burial places described, sketches, photographs, and measurements were taken with painstaking care so that the author is enabled to present the facts clearly and concisely. His work may well serve as a model for those untrained observers who, sincerely desirous of reading these perishable records of camp site and grave, but too frequently succeed only in destroying them.

The cemeteries explored are shown to be very old; the implements² found in them differ somewhat from those used by the Algonquins who inhabited the region at the time of the discovery. We note that the slender spear points of slate resemble those used by the Indians of the Barren Ground of Canada at the present time for killing caribou by thrusts in the back as the animals are swimming across lakes and streams in summer.

In conclusion the author suggests that these cemeteries may have been used by the Beothuks, the last remnant of whom perished in the central part of Newfoundland during the early part of this century. The discovery of a single cemetery of this interesting people would probably solve the problem raised by Mr. Willoughby's investigations, and also determine the relationships of the Beothuks to the tribes around them. A railway has invaded the Red Indian Lake region, and it is now easily accessible; it is to be hoped that a larger series of crania may be discovered, or at least that the few skulls now known may be studied by a trained somatologist.

¹ Willoughby, Charles C. *Prehistoric Burial Places in Maine, Archaeological and Ethnological Papers of the Peabody Museum.* Harvard University. Vol. i (1898), No. 6.

² In the quotation from Dr. Hough's valuable paper on the Fire-Making Apparatus in the U. S. National Museum the statement is made that pyrites were probably used in kindling fire at Herschel Island (and other points east). This may be regarded as a certainty, as we have collected specimens of Eskimo fire-bags containing pyrites at Herschel Island and know that it is so used.